

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

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**Folder label: LLH to Kate and John Hildreth (parents-in-law), from
Chaochowfu, Swatow, United States**

Dates: 1922-1937

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Chaochowfen via Canton
May 15, 1922.

Dear Master Willoughby,

I have written a letter to Mrs. Fuller. I am holding it a few days to enclose some scraps of the party which I gave for her the other day, in case they are good. We are waiting for the film to be developed.

We have received Mrs. Fuller's letter about another "5." and are very grateful for it. Already since I wrote thanking her, a case has come up of a young girl very bright and ambitious, who has eye trouble and pelvic trouble both of which could be treated at the hospital. But Mrs. Baker said, "What is the use! They haven't money enough to buy the glasses, even if her eyes are saved!"

We talked it over and decided that just that case was one which Mrs. Fuller would probably like to aid, and so I offered them the money.

So now, I think it will best to send the money as a T. P. draft directly to ~~Shanghai~~ and we will have it exchanged at Shanghai for the Baker to use for the girl.

Thank you very much for changing the "5." to English money.

We are so glad that Fannie and Aunt Ann are better, and that Mary is improving.

John tries to say grace at table now, but as far as I can hear his low words, he is blessing all the folks at home in America, as we do when he goes to bed at night. However, we often let him do it.

It was very good of you to buy the things for us.

The tooth brushes need a little explanation perhaps. I never have used hard ones until lately, but the weather-climate here acts upon the bristles that even the hard ones become softer more quickly than at home, and the medium ones do not seem to do the work at all well.

When the things arrive, I will let you know about them more in detail. I wonder how the soaking acts upon the bristles. We have never soaked them.

Yes I meant "barefoot" if that is what they are called. We always used to call them sandals. I wonder what sandals are.

Little black widgets (which abound in this weather) keep biting my ears, and so my writing is affected here and there. Their bite is all out of proportion to their size!

Thank you so much for sending books for the children earlier. It was very thoughtful of you. I should think that they would arrive soon.

Please remember us to the Taylors, the Collingwoods - and anyone who may remember us.

Once in a letter you replied something to the effect that Aunt Ann had requested you to write that she didn't want any drawn work, as she was not a good seller.

I puzzled and puzzled to think what I had written.

Finally I decided that I must have asked Aunt ^{Ann} ~~Ann~~ if she did not want me to send her a parcel suitable for Xmas, birthday and wedding presents. She must have thought that I meant her to sell them, but I meant ^{the things} for herself to use and give.

I have always felt sorry that I did not have any-
thing to let you have when you looked over the ^{ward} things
that I had brought home for presents etc. in 1888.

Mrs. ^{Joseph} Skinner ^{of Holyoke} wrote me that Mrs. Skinner
would like some drawn work and felt lace.
So I have made up a parcel larger than she
would want I think. The remainder I intend
to send to Ruth here over to sell, but thinking
that you, or Aunt Jan, or Fannie might want
something from the parcel, I have asked
Mrs. Skinner to send it to you after she
has selected. Then after you have taken
anything that any of you may want at
Holyoke, would you be kind enough to
send ^{the remainder} insured to Ruth at Hingham, Gal.
Mass. Of course it may be hardly possible
that Mrs. Skinner would take for more than
expect. But I fully expect there will be a
good selection after she is thru. The price
list I have given her calls for 100%
profit, and if you want to get anything
I would expect only the ^{cost} cost. Just to
get an idea of what it would cost you, you

could estimate roughly at $\frac{1}{2}$ the U.S. price, but I should have to give you the exact price later, as some things were estimated at just a little below 100% profit.

I hope that Mrs. Skinner will send me the list of what she buys. Then if on the list you will mark it opposite anything you take, and also send me a list with the Mexican and U.S. price also written down, that will insure me against any confusion. It would be well to check the articles that come from Mrs. Skinner to see if they are all there.

I hope this will not be a burden to you, but will give you all an opportunity to get some of these Chinese things for gifts in case you want them. In case you do not want anything, do not hesitate to say so, as Ruth wants a parcel to sell and these things are all suitable.

Love to all of you,
Lottie.

I am sending some fillet here for Dennis & together. I do not think there will be any duty, as it is in a large quantity.

Swatow
April 26, 1923.

Dear mother,

Ellison and I are
sending you to-day a gift for
your 40th anniversary. We hope
that Father also will get great
joy in seeing you in it. It is
brown crepe de chine from India
with a bit of brown Georgette to
help trim it a little. I have seen the
Georgette plaited into the sleeves and
on panels and it is so pretty.
You may want something else to
trim it with too. We bought five
yards of the forty inch width, and
do hope that it will be enough.

We have valued it at wholesale
as we have been told to do lately.

and so I expect there will be
about forty percent duty on 6th U.S.
but I am not sure of the percent.
I am sorry that there is duty, but I
hope the dress will be a pleasure
to you. I know we should love to
see you in it. Mrs. Adams

arrived last Saturday bringing
us recent word from you, and
the beautiful pictures which he
took. We are so glad to have
them and to Ellicott, especially,
it allowed just like a glimpse
of you. I don't know when
I have seen him show his longing
for you more than when he gazed
at them.

We were glad to hear that
you had finally reached Florida,

And we're relieved to know that you escaped the
bad March weather with its grip and colds. Both
Father and Mother and Aunt Cele had been sick.

You will be glad to hear that Bob Bartholomew
and his wife Betty have joined a Baptist church.
They seem greatly rejoiced. They sent us \$2.00
for repair of our house or to use as we want
for the Lord. We shall try to use ^{most of} it in starting
the rug industry. We have 25.00 from Aunt Fan,
22. from Miss Lites (Cold Spring Harbor) - and then
a large part of this money. Isn't that fine!

I received last week end two letters from you from Holyoke and two letters from Florida - a great feast. Thank you very much.

Ellicott is very very busy - and has not been in A No 1 health. I don't want you to worry - He has had malaria in his blood for a long time and has gradually lost weight until he is very thin. He is going to Shanghai for a Conference of Community workers next month and will consult the best doctor in our mission while there. There is hope to start him on the up-path again. He is going to call on the new military official of Savatou to-day. They charge every four weeks now - and it takes a heap of money to buy off the soldiers from looting.

We wish you both a most lovely anniversary. Have we

that we could come in and
see you. Please imagine us
as coming!

I am writing hurriedly as the
days are very very full!

Mr. Adams will be with us
some days yet. We have had
a very heavy rain this morning
and it will help the rice crop.
Our love to Fannie and Aunt
Jan - as well as yourselves.

Hope Mary is well. Love to her.
Love to the Taylors, too. Hope
Leonard received the two envelopes
I sent him.
Children send love & kisses

They have been delighted
with box of Toys etc. Lottie.

Dear Mother;

It certainly was nice to get the news direct from you by Mr. Hems. and to see those pictures. I have had extra prints made, and am putting one of them in my watch case.

I expect to go to Shanghai in a few days as L. has said. The Conference is to last about 3 days; I must go to Kiangpo for that physical exam. and take that opportunity to look into the rug industry there; I must go to Hankow to talk to a man that I want to get for the staff of the Institute! and take the opportunity to visit the Kanyaga School, Institutional School, and Poor Boys School. And at Shanghai I must see the dentist, make some purchases, and try to get a new dean to replace the present unsatisfactory dean of the English Commercial School. So I shall have plenty to do.

Return to Tokyo etc.

Please send to Rockport.

MR. & MRS. BEN L. BAKER

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION
CHADSHOWU VIA SWATOW
CHINA

MR. & MRS. E. E. HAREETH

MISS MARION H. BOSS

Set May 21 - 1921.

Chie is jumping in the seat Aunt Ben & Grandma get her. She loves it.

John has been begging for an ear-ring such as the nurse wears, and so she has taken a brass picture ring and tied it by a string on his ear. He is begging and crying for food these days, as he has been on a very low diet for a week now.

Personal
A week ago to-day he was very suddenly taken with chill and high fever over 102° (by rectum which shows a lower record than the mouth usually).

Was thankful to have Mrs. Baker M.D. next door. I ran over immediately and she came back with me. She thought that he had a sharp attack of tonsillitis at first, as breathing was very rapid & shallow and pulse high and weak and trachea swollen a little. The next day made me suspect intestinal trouble, and that was quite certain by Monday. He had fever varying from high to low until Wednesday night with a good many bowel movements which showed a good deal of mucus and some blood. He was without

food for twenty four hours twice before the fever left him. And by now he is a very hungry little boy living on dry bread, rice, and barley water and honey and white of egg. He was very thin when this began and I am afraid to weigh him now until we are able to feed him a little more. Poor little Chie! He has wanted me to hold him most of the time after the fever broke. He has had to wear an antiphlogistic jacket and winter nightgown these hot days - poor little!

"Want some dinner downstairs"
"Don't want soup in bed."

The package of cards from Grandma and the books from Aunties came at a time when they were highly appreciated. They should not have been more opportune. He was so pleased! He looked at a picture of Onset, Mass. and said

Grandma X
Grandma X
Aunt Ben X
Aunt Annie X
X Mary.
Hugs & kisses from John
He is helping make them

Also we are sending a little parcel with an anniversary present for Mother. We couldn't find a thing this time that would do for both, and so we thought that Father, possibly enjoying seeing a picture of his mother's birthday present - an embroidered nightgown -
"Home aden, Mamma"
"Show that to Daddy"
"Hang it up."
When he saw a butterfly more, he exclaimed, "I want one, I want a pretty butterfly come!"
At other pictures of cities with trolley cars and big buildings he said, "Home aden": "I like those."
And once he asked me in a questioning tone "Home aden?"
"Not sick aden!"
There! I must not write longer. I have not had time in evening for a week or more and have several pressing local notes to write. Wanted you to hear first hand. I shall probably have to go to Tsaiyong to get away from heat - and for change of air as soon as he is strong enough. Very much love to all. The nice letter from Atlantic City came last night. So glad Mary is out of Hospital and better. Love
M. am sending a copy of the So. China Annual, which should may be interesting -

So Royalties, Sept. 15 '37

Dear Fannie and Father, We have enjoyed your letters which I have sent on to Ellison at Middleburg College where he is attending the Congregational Convocation. I am glad to have Alice home. It would be very lonesome without her - but I ^{must} should find plenty to do. To-day I intended to spend all my day (except for ^{house} chores) on writing letters and going over papers on desk and shelves. Instead, I have washed some clothing, sprinkled the weekly wash, made raised rolls, stuffed peppers, and two tomato dishes. picked shell beans from the garden etc. etc. been down street twice; had two callers.

Monday and Tuesday were full of preparation for the 1st missionary meeting of the new year. I had part of the program and exhibits. There were 15 in attendance and that was unprecedented. Elizabeth Barnes had put a lot of work into it and planned a demonstration etc.

Alice's High School had a corn
and hot dog roast last evening,
and so Alice invited one of the
girls to stay over night with her.
They started for the roast about 7:30,
Eating a good supper first, of course.
Then they talked after going to bed.

Some men talked in front of the house
opposite us - and the little goat
^{amused by the men talking} Dauphar,
barked and called as if it were in
mortal agony. It was a long time
before things quieted down so that
we could sleep. (5)

Alice has been made president
of her class. She has been more
helpful about the house ^{evenings}.
When she came home at 10:40,
told the crowd ^{that she and Joan could} to stay out only five min-
utes more - and Alice stayed fifteen.
I told her that because of that she
could not entertain Ray to-night.
She took it with great self control,
a wonderful change since a year or two ago.

We feared a frost last night, and covered over the tomatoes with gunny sacks. Quite a job! It was very close to a frost, ^{low} but not quite. Oh! but it was chilly. I expect the high places got it, but the river must save us, they say.

John has written very interesting letters I am going to send them on to you and father, for I know you will be interested. You really should have a catalog, too. (You do have one, not?)

We were very much pleased that John was one of so few who passed physics, and that he was chosen for the advanced work in English.

Alice chose a very easy course for this year, but Mr. Noble, the principal spoke to her, and so she is taking advanced math, which I enjoy reviewing with her, except when she becomes impatient and declares that a thing can't be so! The first two days I had to help a lot, but the last two days she has brought her work home nearly all done.

Ray gave her a ^{wrist} watch for her birthday - I found out by chance that it cost 18. - but it does not keep good time, and she is a very much disappointed and disillusioned child. I hate to have him give her so much - but I am not supposed to know the value.

Take your time to read the letters

Much love to you both

Lottie

The house must look wonderful.

The prayer meeting must have been a great joy, too, to you all.

Jannie dear, I have thought of many things which I should like to talk with you about but they probably would escape me - if I tried to write them.

Marion wrote that she could hear the sermon Sunday - How wonderful! She also enjoyed her class reunion.

L.

The Lord hath said
by Ben-day Nichols
is worth reading

We have it, but need to know
it here for the present.

So. Royalton, VT. Oct. 31, '37

Dear Father and Fannie, (San. ev.)

Our electric lights have gone off and stayed off such a long time. I am writing by candlelight. - - -

I decided to stop, and now it is ^{Monday} Nov. 1 -
Ellison has had one day when he could really be at home a few minutes. Now that I think of it, tho, he was at the garage most of the morning, had a funeral this P.M., and took me out from 4 until 5:30 to deliver Cent. a - meal boxes. But he is at home this evening for a wonder, and cleaning up his study which has become just a place to leave things in, especially on Halloween when he had to be away, and asked me to bring in two double windows etc.!

For the first time in years, we escaped having our windows smeared with soap on Halloween. I did not see much damage this year. Many of our church young people were at Windsor where the Youth Council was meeting. Some boys broke into the school, rang the bell a long time, and scattered papers all over the town.

I do not mean to say that our church young people would have been doing damage even if they had been home, for they are very nice young people.

Alice was in the church play, and I am anxious to see it. I think that they will repeat it here sometime.

I will enclose John's last letter. also check for Fannie which I meant to

have sent earlier, but my headache laid me low for several days. I was thankful to have mother here. I have been trying to get a woman to help me, but haven't succeeded yet.

I had the doctor and he gave me medicine which should help to prevent them.

I enjoyed the pict of John's dining room. He himself looks well I think.

I have some pansies on my table that were picked to-day. They have withstood several heavy frosts! And they are very beautiful.

We have new song-books for S.S. - "Hymns for Creative Living" - put out by the Judson Press.

We opened some jars for supper that were very nice. Thank

you for sending - It gives us a
very warm feeling around our
hearts to think that dear Grandma
prepared them and worked over them.

Now it is after 10 P.M. - and I will
try to put my family to bed -

Ellison has to spend to-morrow
in Barre at a Methodist
meeting.

Alice is still practising for the
Senior play - "Polishing Papa" -
which has been postponed to
Nov. 19 -

Now much love to you both,
and many thanks for good letters.
Lottie.

Ellison is trying to get the Lincoln
book exchanged - L.

MRS. E. STORY HILDRETH
SOUTH ROYALTON
VERMONT

Nov. 7, 1937

Dear Fannie and Father, Another nice letter has come from John, with a picture of the fellows who live in Nemo Hall. It shows him happy again, ^{as always in letters from college} and his letter seems happy too.

We have had a very nice Sunday. It was Communion Sunday with us, and the spirit of it was powerful. I do not know how to express it more than to say that the spirit of God seemed evident. I do not know whether others felt it as I did or not.

I am feeling stronger than I was a week ago, but my heart still skips beats now and then - nothing serious. But I can't do quite so much as I want to. I tried to get someone to help me and was not suc-

cessful. Then Marion came back, ^{about 10:00} to
be with me until Mother goes back, and
that solves the problem for the present.
I think I can certainly find some one later.

Last Wednesday Mother, E. and I went to
Hanover to see three people who were in
the hospital. When we got back ^{about 5:00}, we found
that Marion had arrived and had been
ironing all the P.M. - It was a pleasure
to find her - but it seems to me rather
a strenuous day for her. She is very happy
and reports improvement in hearing in the
very deaf ear.

She was at church service
this A.M., and enjoyed it, hearing all but
the prayer and reading.

This evening she and Alice went with E.
to the News School - a road ~~stiff~~ and
rough - where he spoke in the school house.

MRS. E. STORY HELDRETH
SOUTH ROYALTON
VERMONT

Did I tell you that Mrs. Drabble spent the P.M. with us last week? She spoke of a book that she had partly read, and would like to finish. It might have been a book on Palestine. Perhaps I can find out when I come down. She was not quite sure of title. Do you own "Palestine at the Crossroads"?

She seemed much better, - did not cry at all, - and would not rest altho she was here from about 1:30 to 5:30. I was tired myself!

E. spoke at ministers meeting this Am. and called rest of P.M. and this evening. Last weeks program something as follows; -

Monday. E. took me calling in P.M.

Tuesday E. in care all day for mth. ministers meeting. ~~Ministry~~ ^{Ministry} asked to live by 4 absolutes of the C.P.

I worked & helped at League meeting in eve.

Wed. In P.M. E. took mother & me to hospital at Hanover in Pa. We also looked at mural in library at Dartmouth Coll.

Tues. ev. - E & I went to C. E. meeting at Royalton.
Thursday. I spent day at Meth meeting at Randolph.
Choir rehearsal here in eve.

Friday. Must see Dr. in P.M. - a long wait -
On Sat. E & I went to C. E. Social at Royalton.

Sat. work and callers.

Sun. E took Marion, Alice & Ray etc.

We were pleased to see newspaper articles
about Grandpa around the birthday
time.

Madame Pondelle who was at Edith
Abbott's tea-party has joined the Oxford
group.

Tentative dates for Beloit Convention are
June 15-22, 1938.

Much much love to you both.

Lottie.

Please return John's picture
as soon as possible.
Lottie